2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

7 May 2010
English
Original: French

New York, 3-28 May 2010

Implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and of paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

Report by Morocco

1. The eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in New York from 3 to 28 May 2010, in a relatively favourable international context, comes at a crucial time for the future of the non-proliferation regime.

2. Indeed, the current review process, which began in 2007, has been marked by an awareness of the importance of avoiding a repeat of the devastating 2005 setback, which would only serve to undermine the international non-proliferation regime. However, developments since 2009 indicate that prospects for a successful outcome of the 2010 Conference are bright.

3. In that regard, the following positive developments are particularly noteworthy:

- The revival of disarmament efforts, after a protracted impasse, with the adoption of a programme of work for the Conference on Disarmament, which would begin negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty.
- The announcement by the new United States administration of its new vision of a world without nuclear weapons outlined by President Barack Obama in his April 2009 speech in Prague.
- The optimism generated by the article XIV Conference on facilitating the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the announcement by President Obama of his determination to accelerate the ratification by Washington of the Treaty.
- The signature at Prague on 8 April 2010 of a new START Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons.

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- The success of the summit on nuclear security held at Washington on 12 and 13 April 2010.

However, these positive developments should not obscure the fact that there are challenges to a successful outcome of the Review Conference.

4. A successful outcome to the upcoming Conference will require great flexibility and political will in search for common ground for the adoption of a balanced concrete final document with a realistic plan of action establishing an appropriate balance among the three pillars of the Treaty.

5. The Kingdom of Morocco is deeply committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, its underlying principles and to the strict implementation of all its provisions.

6. The Kingdom of Morocco believes that the Treaty is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and a key instrument for the maintenance of peace and security in the world.

7. Developments in the international security situation have demonstrated the enormous importance of the Treaty and the need to preserve its strength and credibility in order to confront the threats associated with nuclear terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

8. The Kingdom of Morocco stresses the vital importance for all States parties to abide by the provisions of the Treaty and the obligations arising thereunder.

9. The Kingdom of Morocco, which has signed and ratified all the multilateral instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction, remains committed to general and complete disarmament and, in particular, to nuclear disarmament. Since its accession to the Treaty in 1970, the Kingdom of Morocco has consistently worked for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and their non-proliferation.

10. As a Contracting Party, the Kingdom of Morocco has consistently supported the decisions aimed at strengthening the review process of the Treaty, just as it has always supported initiatives to strengthen the authority of this regime and promote its universalization.

11. For this reason, the Kingdom of Morocco fully supports the positive conclusions of the 1995 and 2000 review conferences of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and reaffirms the importance of their implementation by the States Parties, in a transparent, balanced and irreversible manner.

12. It believes that the multilateral non-proliferation regime must be strengthened in order to combat nuclear proliferation, the illicit transfer of nuclear devices and material, and the risks of nuclear terrorism.

13. Likewise, at the level of the General Assembly, the Kingdom of Morocco has always supported the adoption of resolutions aimed at promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

14. The Kingdom of Morocco endorses action aimed at ending the deadlock in the work of the Conference on Disarmament and continues to support the undertaking of negotiations for the development of a treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, a legal instrument on negative security assurances and a convention on nuclear disarmament.

15. Pursuant to article IV of the Treaty, the Kingdom of Morocco reaffirms its commitment to the inalienable right of the States Parties to the Treaty to carry out research, and develop the production and utilization of nuclear energy and technologies for peaceful purposes, particularly through international cooperation under monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

16. Morocco also stresses that such right should be exercised in full compliance with the safeguards, safety and security obligations.

17. Morocco supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all regions of the world, as provided for by article VII of the Treaty, and considers the establishment of such zones as an effective and useful contribution to the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, to nuclear disarmament efforts and to the strengthening of regional and international peace and security.

18. Morocco welcomes the entry into force, in July 2009, of the Pelindaba Treaty, which made Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and calls for the strengthening of efforts to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

19. The Kingdom of Morocco, which supports a total ban on nuclear tests, signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in September 1996 and ratified it in April 2000. It deplores the fact that this Treaty, which was opened for signature on 24 September 1996, has still not entered into force. In that regard, Morocco has seized every opportunity to reiterate its appeal to all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty without delay.

20. In that spirit, Morocco served as Co-President with France of the Article XIV Conference held on 24 and 25 September 2009; it was widely attended by high-level representatives of States Signatories. As part of the efforts to implement the final declaration of the conference, adopted by consensus, Morocco and France are coordinating international action to promote the ratification and entry into force of the Treaty.

21. While the Kingdom of Morocco stresses the importance of respect for moratoriums on nuclear tests, it believes that they are not an alternative to the ratification and entry into force of the Treaty.

22. In addition, in implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Kingdom of Morocco concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA as of 1973. On 22 September 2004, it concluded an additional protocol to its safeguards agreement with the Agency, pursuant to the Treaty. The ratification process for the protocol is under way.

23. Morocco supports the strengthening of the IAEA safeguards regime and has contributed to all efforts aimed at achieving that objective. Morocco has consistently stressed the need to provide the Agency with adequate resources to enable it to effectively discharge its mandate in the area of safeguards.

24. Morocco also contributes to efforts aimed at achieving the universality of the Treaty and of the IAEA safeguards. Such universality is vital if the non-proliferation regime is to be effective.

25. The Kingdom of Morocco is party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which it ratified in 2002. Convinced of the

importance of nuclear security, Morocco supported the strengthening of that Convention through the 2005 amendment.

26. In that regard, Morocco accepted the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and contributed to the exchange of experiences with respect to its implementation.

27. The efforts made by the Kingdom of Morocco to supplement its legal arsenal for combating the proliferation of and trafficking in devices and material that could help non-State actors to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop or transport nuclear, biological or chemical weapons, demonstrate the Kingdom's unshakeable commitment to the campaign waged by the international community to confront terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

28. In that regard, a bill on civil liability in the event of nuclear damage was adopted on 20 January 2005, while the relevant implementing legislation was adopted in 2006 at the same time as a decree guaranteeing State support for the Centre national de l'énergie, des sciences et des techniques nucléaires (National Centre for Nuclear Energy, Sciences and Technology) which runs the research reactor.

29. Other draft regulations pertaining to transport safety and waste management are in the process of being finalized. Moreover, a draft joint decree on the physical protection of nuclear material is being prepared. This text, conceived in the form of a regulation, complies with the provisions of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

30. In order to unify the national legal framework, a draft law on nuclear and radiological safety and security, developed in collaboration with IAEA experts, is in the process of being promulgated. Key provisions of this draft law include the establishment of a regulatory agency responsible for controlling nuclear material and radioactive sources, keeping an inventory thereof and implementing safety and security measures in accordance with national legislation and basic international standards.

31. The Kingdom of Morocco, being convinced that the international effort to combat terrorism should cover all aspects of that complex phenomenon, fully shares the concerns of the international community concerning the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Thus, on 26 October 2004, it submitted its national report pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and submitted updates and additional information in 2005 and 2007, respectively.

32. On 19 April 2006, the Kingdom of Morocco signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism adopted by the General Assembly in 2005 as a significant step forward in the international struggle against terrorism in all its forms.

33. Morocco contributes to the IAEA database on illicit trafficking and is currently working, in cooperation with the European Union and the United States of America, to establish an export control regime for dual-use goods.

34. Morocco is convinced that a wider multilateral approach and international cooperation are the basis of any global and effective responses to emerging global threats.

35. In that context, given the importance of nuclear security and its impact on enhancing non-proliferation efforts, Morocco is participating in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and hosted the initial meeting of that Initiative in October 2006. It also joined the Proliferation Security Initiative in May 2008.